

**BUNTING, ROBERT FRANKLIN
(1828-1891)
PAPERS
1861?-**

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INTRODUCTION

The Bunting papers composed of typed copies of 97 Civil War Letters, a diary, and writings of Reverend Robert Franklin Bunting (1828-1891), and some writings of his son, Henry S. Bunting, were given to the State Library and Archives by Henry S. Bunting of Naples, Florida, in 1946. Reverend R. F. Bunting was sent as a missionary to Texas by the Presbyterian Church in 1851, and served pastorates at La Grange, Columbus, and San Antonio, Texas, prior to the Civil War. In 1861 he was made Chaplain of Terry's Texas Rangers, Eighth Texas Cavalry. He was Regimental Historian and War Correspondent for the Houston *Daily*, the *Tri Weekly Telegraph* and the San Antonio *Herald*. After the war he served pastorates at Nashville, Tennessee, Galveston, Texas, Rome, Georgia, and Gallatin, Tennessee. Originals of Rev. R. F. Bunting's letters are in the University of Texas library.

The papers occupy .41 linear feet of shelf space, and numbers approximately 150 items. Literary rights in the unpublished writings of Rev. Robert Franklin Bunting and his son, Henry S. Bunting, in this collection are the property of Henry S. Bunting during his life time. Single photocopies of unpublished writings may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Bunting papers containing approximately 150 items is composed of typed copies of 97 Confederate letters, a diary, and other writings of Reverend Robert Franklin Bunting (1028-1891) and some writings of his son, Henry S. Bunting. The writings of the son are primarily biographical sketches of his father and his father's work with the Presbyterian Church and as chaplain in the Confederate service. At the outbreak of the Civil War Reverend Robert F. Bunting was serving as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in San Antonio, Texas. He was Jefferson Davis' first appointment as chaplain. He served in this position for Terry's Texas Rangers, Eighth Texas Cavalry, during the War. In addition to his duties as chaplain he was Regimental Historian and War Correspondent for the Houston *Daily and Tri weekly Telegraph* and for the San Antonio *Herald*. His 97 letters, the originals of which are preserved in the Archives of the University of Texas, cover the entire period of the War and were written for the papers mentioned above. The letters are very full, containing names of the killed and wounded who belonged to the Texas Rangers, as well as detailed accounts of the battles in which they fought. Although a native of Pennsylvania, Reverend Bunting was completely in sympathy with the Secessionists and wrote in most uncomplimentary terms of the abolitionists. The Texas Rangers were with the Army of Tennessee attached to Forrest's command for a time during the war. They were in Tennessee more than any other State, although they fought at Shiloh and Corinth, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Kentucky. There were with Bragg when he went into Kentucky early in the war. In addition to the war information, Bunting wrote of attending Presbyterian assemblies in Augusta, Georgia, and Montgomery, Alabama.

The accounts of Reverend Bunting's career after the war as pastor of Presbyterian Churches in Nashville, Galveston, Texas, Rome, Georgia, and Gallatin, Tennessee, are given in the writings of his son, Henry S. Bunting which are a part of the collection.

Robert Franklin Bunting
1828-1891

1828	May 9 Born at Hookstown, Beaver County, Penn.
1849	A.B. Washington College (now Washington & Jefferson)
1851	A.M. and B.D. Princeton University - Commissioned "Missionary to Texas" by the Presbyterian Church.
1852-56	Held his first pastorates in Presbyterian Church at La Grange and Columbus, Texas.
1856-61	Pastor of San Antonio First Presbyterian Church. Only protestant minister in San Antonio in 1856- and 1857. The name of his first wife and date of their marriage has not been found. She was from Columbus, Texas, and died in the first year of their marriage.
1858	Married Chriscinda Sharpe of Steubenville, Ohio daughter of William Sharpe, a pioneer iron manufacturer. She was born in Cadix, Ohio in 1838.
1861-65	Chaplain of Terry's Texas Rangers - 8th Texas Cavalry. Regimental Historian and War Correspondent for the Houston Telegraph and the San Antonio Herald.
1865-68	Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Nashville. Began his service at a salary of \$25 per month and before the end of the first year was getting \$3,500 per year.
1868-81	November 1868. Called to church in Galveston, Texas and served thirteen years, His beginning salary was \$2000 about half of the salary he was getting in Nashville.
1876-79	Editor of <u>Texas Presbyterian</u>
1881-84	Served as pastor of church in Rome, Georgia.
1885-89	Fiscal Agent for Southwestern Presbyterian College at Clarksville, Tennessee.
1887	Initiated as honorary member of S.A.E.
1889-91	Served as pastor at Gallatin, Tennessee.
1891	Died of heart attack September 19.

CONTAINER LIST

1. Bunting, Robert Franklin – Sketches
2. Buntings and SAE Fraternity - Saga Of the Bunting Brothers.
3. Clippings.
4. Confederate Letters of Robert F, Bunting, 1861-63.
5. Confederate Letters of Robert F, Bunting, 1863-65.
6. Diary of Robert F. Bunting, January - May 1863.
7. "Presbyterianism in San Antonio, Texas," by Robert F. Bunting.
8. Presbyterian Church in San Antonio, Sketch by Henry S. Bunting.
9. "Presbyterian Church of San Antonio and Biography of its Founder, Reverend R. F. Bunting," by Henry S. Bunting.
10. "The Storm, " by Henry S. Bunting.